



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 23, 1997

Mr. B. D. Kenyon
President - Nuclear Group
Northeast Utilities Service Group
c/o Mr. Terry L. Harpster
Director - Nuclear Licensing Services
P. O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3 - EVALUATION OF SERVICE
WATER NON-CODE REPAIR AT MILLSTONE UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M94157)

Dear Mr. Kenyon:

By letters dated November 20, 1995, and July 23, 1996, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) proposed a non-Code repair by applying an epoxy-based coating to the pitting areas of the service water discharge pipes, and requested NRC's approval to credit the concrete encasement for satisfying the pressure retaining requirements of Article ND-3640 in Section III of the ASME Code.

The staff has reviewed your proposed alternatives to the ASME Code requirements. The alternatives consist of applying epoxy-based coating to all the eroded areas, inspecting the affected service water piping during each refueling outage and during any planned or unplanned outage of greater than 6 weeks duration, monitoring the inside of the discharge tunnel during every other future planned refueling outage, and crediting the service water concrete encasement as a pressure retaining structure to satisfy the requirements of the ASME Code. Further, you stated that the affected pipes are encased in concrete and excavation and replacement of the encasement would be required to meet the Code. Because the proposed alternatives provide reasonable assurance of structural integrity, the NRC has determined that compliance with the Code would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. The enclosed safety evaluation provides the NRC staff's review.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), the NRC concludes that the proposed alternatives are acceptable, provide an acceptable level of quality and safety in lieu of the Code requirements and are authorized.

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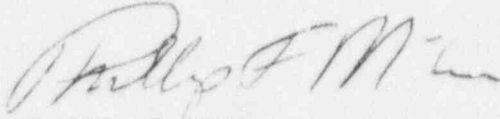
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Mr. B. D. Kenyon

- 2 -

Please contact James W. Andersen at (301) 415-1437 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phillip F. McKee".

Phillip F. McKee
Deputy Director for Licensing
Special Projects Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-423

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. B. D. Kenyon

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January 23, 1997

Please contact James W. Andersen at (301) 415-1437 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Phillip F. McKee
Deputy Director for Licensing
Special Projects Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-423

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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*See previous concurrence

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NAME	JAndersen	LBerry	WTravers	GBagchi		PMcKee
DATE	01/13/97	01/16/97	01/15/97	12/12/96		01/23/97

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Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit 3

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Millstone Nuclear Power Station
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